

CLAIMS

Please **AMEND** claims 1 and 18.

Applicant has entered no new matter. The following listing provides a copy of all pending claims and a status of each claim.

Listing of Claims

- 1) (Currently Amended) A two-component device for closing a laceration or incision, comprising:
 - a) a first substantially inelastic component comprising a first adhesive-backed anchoring member and one or more first connecting members extending from one edge thereof in a first direction, the first component being transparent;
 - b) a second substantially inelastic component comprising a second adhesive-backed anchoring member and one or more second connecting members extending from one edge thereof in a second direction generally opposite to the first direction, the second component being transparent; wherein the first component and the second component are separate and distinct and the one or more first connecting members and the one or more second connecting members are interleaved; and
 - c) means for attaching the one or more first connecting members to the second adhesive-backed anchoring member and means for attaching the one or more second connecting members to the first adhesive-backed anchoring member, the attachment of the one or more first and second connecting members to the first and second adhesive-backed anchoring members form attached and bridging portions of the one or more first and second connecting members, such that the attached portions are attached to the first and second adhesive-backed anchoring members, and the bridging portions span over the laceration area between the first and second adhesive-backed anchoring members.
- 2) (Original) The two-component device of Claim 1 further comprising a pulling element attached to the one or more first connecting members, or extensions thereof, and a pulling element attached to the one or more second connecting members, or extensions thereof.

- 3) (Previously presented) The two-component device of Claim 2 wherein the pulling elements of the one or more first and second connecting members and the first and second adhesive-backed anchoring members are coded to enable user distinction.
- 4) (Previously presented) The two-component device of Claim 2 wherein the pulling elements of the one or more first and second connecting members and extensions of the one or more first and second connecting members are removable following application of the device.
- 5) (Original) The two-component device of Claim 3 wherein the coding comprises an observable geometric distinction between the shape of the pulling elements and the shape of the anchoring members.
- 6) (Original) The two-component device of Claim 3 wherein the coding comprises printed indicia enabling user distinction between pulling elements and anchoring members.
- 7) (Original) The two-component device of Claim 3 wherein the coding comprises distinguishing colors.
- 8) (Original) The two-component device of Claim 1 which is produced from a vapor-permeable material.
- 9) (Previously presented) The two-component device of Claim 1 wherein the means for attaching the one or more first and second connecting members to the first and second adhesive-backed anchoring members is adhesive, adhesive being applied to at least a portion of the lower surface of the one or more first and second connecting members.
- 10) (Previously presented) The two-component device of Claim 9 wherein the adhesive-backed surface of each anchoring member of the first and second adhesive-backed anchoring members is protected by one or more release liners, and the adhesive-backed surface of each connecting member of the one or more first and second connecting members is protected by one or more release liners.

- 11) (Original) The two-component device of Claim 10 wherein the release liners are optionally coded to indicate sequence of removal.
- 12) (Previously presented) The two-component device of Claim 1 wherein the adhesive applied to the portion of the lower surface of the one or more first and second connecting members is protected by a first and a second release liner, the first release liner protecting the adhesive along the edge from which the one or more first and second connecting members extend, and the second release liner protecting the the adhesive along a length of the edge of the respective adhesive-backed anchoring member which is generally opposite the edge from which the one or more first and second connecting members extend.
- 13) (Original) The two-component device of Claim 12 wherein the coding comprises printed indicia enabling user distinction between the first release liner and the second release liner.
- 14) (Original) The two-component device of Claim 12 wherein the coding comprises distinguishing colors between the first release liner and the second release liner.
- 15) (Previously presented) The two-component device of Claim 1 wherein the first and second adhesive-backed anchoring members are provided with one or more alignment indicators.
- 16) (Original) The two-component device of Claim 2 wherein the pulling element is reinforced with a pull bar.
- 17) (Previously presented) The two-component device of Claim 1 wherein the first and second adhesive-backed anchoring members are reinforced with a wound edge bar.
- 18) (Currently amended) A method for closing a laceration or incision, the method comprising:
- a) providing a two-component device for closing a laceration or incision, comprising:

- i) a first substantially inelastic component comprising a first adhesive-backed anchoring member and one or more first connecting members extending from one edge thereof in a first direction, the first component being transparent;
- ii) a second substantially inelastic component comprising a second adhesive-backed anchoring member and one or more second connecting members extending from one edge thereof in a second direction generally opposite to the first direction, the second component being transparent; wherein the first component and the second component are separate and distinct and the one or more first connecting members and the one or more second connecting members are interleaved; and
- iii) means for attaching the one or more first connecting members to the second adhesive-backed anchoring member and means for attaching the one or more second connecting members to the first adhesive-backed anchoring member, the attachment of the one or more first connecting members and the one or more second connecting members to the second and first adhesive-backed anchoring members, respectively, forming attached and bridging portions of the one or more first and second connecting members, the attached portions being attached to the respective first and second adhesive-backed anchoring member, and the bridging portions spanning the over-laceration area between the first and second adhesive-backed anchoring members;
- b) attaching the first and second components to at least a portion of skin on opposite sides of the laceration or incision, the edge of the first and second components from which the one or more first and second connecting members extend being the edge closest to the laceration or incision;
- c) closing the laceration or incision by adjusting a position of the first and second adhesive-backed anchoring members relative to each other in both an X and a Y dimension; and
- d) fixing the relationship between the first and second adhesive-backed anchoring members established in step c) by attaching the one or more first connecting members to the second adhesive-backed anchoring

member, and the one or more second connecting members to the first adhesive-backed anchoring member.

- 19) (Original) The method of Claim 18 wherein the device further comprises a pulling element attached to the one or more first connecting members, or extensions thereof, and a pulling element attached to the one or more second connecting members, or extensions thereof.
- 20) (Previously presented) The method of Claim 19 wherein the pulling elements of the one or more first and second connecting members and the first and second adhesive-backed anchoring members are coded to enable user distinction.
- 21) (Previously presented) The method of Claim 19 wherein the pulling elements of the one or more first and second connecting members and extensions of the one or more first and second connecting members are removable following application of the device.
- 22) (Original) The method of Claim 20 wherein the coding comprises an observable geometric distinction between the shape of the pulling elements and the shape of the anchoring members.
- 23) (Original) The method of Claim 20 wherein the coding comprises printed indicia enabling user distinction between pulling elements and anchoring members.
- 24) (Original) The method of Claim 20 wherein the coding comprises distinguishing colors.
- 25) (Original) The method of Claim 18 wherein the device is produced from a vapor-permeable material.
- 26) (Previously presented) The method of Claim 18 wherein the means for attaching the one or more first and second connecting members to the first and second adhesive-backed anchoring members is adhesive, adhesive being applied to at least a portion of the lower surface of the one or more first and second connecting members.

- 27) (Original) The method of Claim 26 wherein the adhesive-backed surface of each anchoring member is protected by one or more release liners, and the adhesive-backed surface of each connecting member is protected by one or more release liners.
- 28) (Original) The method of Claim 27 wherein the release liners are optionally coded to indicate sequence of removal.
- 29) (Original) The method of Claim 28 wherein the adhesive-backed surfaces of the first and second anchoring members each are protected by a first and a second release liner, the first release liner protecting adhesive-backed surfaces along the edge from which the one or more connecting members extend, and the second release liner protecting the adhesive-backed surfaces along the length of the edge of the anchoring member which is generally opposite the edge from which the one or more connecting members extend.
- 30) (Original) The method of Claim 29 wherein the coding comprises printed indicia enabling user distinction between the first release liner and the second release liner.
- 31) (Original) The method of Claim 29 wherein the coding comprises distinguishing colors between the first release liner and the second release liner.
- 32) (Previously presented) The method of Claim 18 wherein the first and second adhesive-backed anchoring members are provided with one or more alignment indicators.
- 33) (Previously presented) The method of Claim 19 wherein the pulling element of the one or more first and second connecting members is reinforced with a pull bar.
- 34) (Previously presented) The method of Claim 18 wherein the first and second adhesive-backed anchoring members are reinforced with a wound edge bar.